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Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIEST 00210 021317Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00
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TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIESTE 0210
E.O.: 11652; GDS
TAGS: PINT, IT, YO
SUBJ: TRIESTE AND OSIMO
REF: TRIESTE 0119
1. SUMMARY. OSIMO IS STILL THE PRINCIPAL PREOCCUPATION OF LOCAL POLITICAL LEADERS, PARTICULARLY THE DC. DURING FONMIN FORLANI'S RECENT VISIT TO BELGRADE (JUNE 6-7) AND THE JUST-CONCLUDED ECONOMIC CONFERENCE IN TRIESTE (JUNE 24-26), COMMON THEME WAS OSIMO'S POTENTIAL AS A CATALYST IN THE REBIRTH OF TRIESTE AS A MAJOR ADRIATIC PORT. DC CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON OSIMO IS TARDY BUT SEEMS TO BE HAVING SOME EFFECT. NEVERTHELESS, THE SO-CALLED CIVIC LIST STILL INTENDS TO RUN ITS ANTI-OSIMO TICKET,

PAGE 2 RUFLSHA0066 C O N F I D E N T I A L
IN THIS FALL'S MUNICIPAL
ELECTIONS IN TRIESTE--A MOVE ALMOST GUARANTEED TO WEAKEN FURTHER THE DC'S GRIP ON CITY HALL AND STRENGTHEN THE SOCIALIST/COMMUNIST BID TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE ONE OF THE LAST MAJOR ITALIAN CITIES STILL IN DC HANDS. END SUMMARY.
2. FONMIN FORLANI'S VISIT TO BELGRADE GENERATED MUCH REGIONAL INTEREST DESPITE WHAT MAJOR LOCAL DC LEADER TOLD PRINCIPAL OFFICER WAS A COSMETIC, SUPERFICIAL EFFORT BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER. FORLANI, ON HIS RETURN FROM BELGRADE, TOLD THE DC-RUN DAILY IL CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 TRIEST 00210 021317Z

GAZZETTINO THAT OSIMO WAS NOT A CLOSED CHAPTER OF A SAD PERIOD BUT RATHER A BASIS FOR NEW COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. DESCRIBING TRIESTE VARIOUSLY AS THE EC'S BRIDGE/DOOR TO THE BALKANS, FORLANI STRESSED THAT NEITHER SIDE WAS UNMINDFUL OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN THE PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL ZONE AND FOR THAT REASON HAS NO WISH TO MOVE IMPRUDENTLY.
3. IN TRIESTE JUNE 24-26, THE SECOND-EVER CONFERENCE ON THE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

TRIESTE ECONOMY (THE FIRST TOOK PLACE 12 YEARS AGO) WAS HELD
TO TAKE AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT THE CITY'S PROBLEMS AND THEIR
REMEDIES, AND TRIESTE'S FUTURE. THE DISCUSSION WHICH WAS
ATTENDED BY ALL POLITICAL PARTIES AND PRINCIPAL COMMUNITY

PAGE 3 RUFLSHA0066 C O N F I D E N T I A L
LEADERS CENTERED ON A 100 PAGE PLUS REPORT BY PROFESSOR
PARRINELLO OF ROME UNIVERSITY.
4. REDUCED TO BASICS, THE CONCLUSIONS WERE THAT TRIESTE'S
PROBLEMS ARE A LACK OF INDUSTRIAL GROWTH, A STAGNANT AND AGING
POPULATION, AND INADEQUATE PORT FACILITIES FOR A MAJOR ADRIATIC
ROLE. ADDED TO THIS WERE THE WELL-KNOWN INFRASTRUCTURE WEAK-
NESSES AND THE NEED TO COMPLETE THE HIGHWAY AND RAIL LINKS
WITH AUSTRIA AND THUS WITH CENTRAL/NORTH EUROPE.
5. AS SEEN BY THE CONFERENCE, OSIMO WILL PERMIT TRIESTE TO
SERVE NOT ONLY AS THE EC LINK BETWEEN WEST AND EAST EUROPEAN ECONOMIE
S,
BUT TO SERVE AS WELL AS THE THIRD ANGLE IN THE YUGOSLAV/ITALIAN/THIRD
WORLD TRIANGLE OF TRADE, COMMERCE, ETC. CONFIDENCE, EFFECTIVE
ENTERPRENEURSHIP AND A REALIZATION OF AND A WILL TO EXPLOIT TRIESTE'S
GEO-POLITICAL POSITION ARE NEEDED, HOWEVER.
6. DEPUTY CORRADO BELCI TOOK ON THE DELICATE AND SENSITIVE OSIMO
QUESTION BEFORE THE ENTIRE CONFERENCE WITH CONSIDERABLE COURAGE.
AMONG OTHER TINGS, BELCI POINTED OUT THAT "TO BUILD TOGLIATIGRAD,
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PAGE 03 TRIEST 00210 021317Z

PUTTING TOGETHER THE MULTINATIONAL INTERESTS OF FIAT AND OF THE
SOVIET UNION, A PEACE WHICH IS NOT A WAR IS SUFFICIENT, BUT FOR
COUNTRIES SUCH AS ITALY, AUSTRIA, YUGOSLAVIA, AND GREECE WHICH LIVE

PAGE 4 RUFLSHA0066 C O N F I D E N T I A L
CHEEK TO JOWL AND WHICH ARE ECONOMICALLY INTER-DEPENDENT, PEACE MUST
BE SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST THE ABSENCE OF WAR: IT MUST BE ACTIVE
COLLABORATION. THE ADRIATIC CANNOT BE SAVED FROM POLLUTION IF THERE
IS NO ACTIVE COOPERATION...THIS IS THE REALITY AND THIS IS THE
CONTEXT IN WHICH THE EUROPEAN ROLE OF TRIESTE MUST BE CONSTRUCTED.
BEYOND WHAT SOME MIGHT WANT, MARIA THERESE, FRANZ JOSEPH, AND
MUSSOLINI WILL NOT RETURN."
7. COMMENT. AS FOR CONCRETE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE, IT IS TOO
SOON TO SAY. HOWEVER, ANUMBER OF THINGS WERE SAID THAT NEEDED
SAYING AND MORE PEOPLE THAN EVER ARE TALKING ABOUT TRIESTE'S
EUROPEAN ROLE AS THE LINK BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. THE MORE THEY DO
SO THE EASIER THE DC'S JOB WILL BE THIS FALL.. THUS THE DC
CONFIDENCE-BUILDING AND PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM WHILE TARDY
SEEMS TO BE TAKING HOLD. OPPONENTS OF THE TREATY ARE INCREASINGLY
FORCED TO PEG THEIR ARGUMENTS SOLELY ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

WHICH BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE REPEATEDLY STRESSED THEY WILL SAFEGUARD.
8. THE UNDERLYING PROBLEM IS PRIDE, OSIMO SYMBOLIZES FOR MANY A
PAINFUL OUTCOME OF A LOST WAR, THE LOSS OF TRIESTE'S SPECIAL STATUS,
AND THE NEED TO ACCEPT THE REALITY OF TRIESTE AS AN ITALIAN CITY.
OSIMO'S SUPPORTERS ARGUE THAT TRIESTE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SERVICE-

PAGE 5 RUFLSHA0066 C O N F I D E N T I A L
CENTERED EUROPEAN PORT AND AN EMPORIUM IN THE ADRIATIC, AND IT IS
PRECISELY THAT ROLE THE TREATY OFFERS AGAIN TO THE CITY IN TODAY'S
WORLD.
9. AS TIME PASSES, IT SEEMS THAT MORE AND MORE TRIESTE CITIZENS ARE
STARTING TO LISTEN TO MORE THAN JUST THE ANTI-OSIMO RHETORIC. BUT
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PAGE 04 TRIEST 00210 021317Z

THIS FALL'S MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ARE SURE TO RAKE UP THE COALS AND
THE DC'S HOLD ON CITY HALL MAY WELL WEAKEN FURTHER AND THE COMMUNISTS
(WHO SUPPORT OSIMO JUST AS STRONGLY AS THE DC) MAY TURN OUT TO BE
THE ONLY REAL WINNERS. MOEN.

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